

# EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

## FAMILY VIOLENCE PREVENTION AND SERVICES IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2021

SPEECH OF

**HON. DANNY K. DAVIS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 26, 2021*

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of the Family Violence Prevention and Services Improvement Act. The Illinois Coalition Against Domestic Violence and its members have clearly communicated to me the critical nature of the Family Violence Prevention and Services funding and the improvements included in this legislation to Chicago and the state of Illinois.

In 2020, these funds helped provide over 547,287 hours of service in Illinois, assisting 42,886 adult survivors of domestic violence and 8,055 child witnesses. These dollars provided shelter, transportation and parental support, legal advocacy and education, crisis intervention, and connections to community resources. For example, Ascend Justice use these federal funds to support their vital work to obtain Orders of Protection for their clients.

Similarly, Metropolitan Family Services used these funds to provide direct emergency support to their clients to help survivors of domestic violence to find or maintain safer housing, feed and clothe their families, protect themselves from COVID-19, and access lifesaving services remotely during the pandemic. Specifically, here are just a few ways Metropolitan Family Services used these funds:

Provided rent and utility payment assistance of between \$500 to \$1000 for 32 clients;

Paid for five hotel shelter nights for a client who was unable to access other emergency shelter when she needed it;

Provided grocery gift cards of between \$50 to \$250 per client for 18 clients experiencing food insecurity;

Provided clothing, toiletries, and/or PPE kits to 50 clients;

Purchased and distributed educational materials about COVID-19 to clients and community members;

Purchased eight Chromebooks to loan to clients to participate in remote domestic violence counseling services to overcome their lack of adequate technology; and

Purchased four laptops for the Domestic Violence Court advocates, allowing them to continue assisting clients with Orders of Protection, legal referrals, and courtroom support while the Centralized Domestic Violence Courthouse in Chicago was operating remotely.

These funds and services mean the difference between safety and harm, and I applaud this House for improving the Family Violence Prevention and Services program. I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of this legislation.

## RECOMMENDING THAT THE HOUSE FIND STEPHEN K. BANNON IN CONTEMPT OF CONGRESS

SPEECH OF

**HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 21, 2021*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I would like to associate myself with the remarks of all of my colleagues on the Select Committee to Investigate the January 6th Attack on the United States Capitol, and particularly those of the Select Committee's Vice Chair, LIZ CHENEY of Wyoming.

Their contributions to this debate have underscored our legislative purpose, the centrality of Steve Bannon's role in our investigation, and the importance of compliance with a duly issued congressional subpoena to the rule of law. I am proud to lead them in this investigation authorized by the House in H. Res. 503.

## HONORING THE CAREER OF MAJOR DENNIS ALLEN

**HON. BRIAN BABIN**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 27, 2021*

Mr. BABIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the career and recognize the retirement of a true American hero, Major Dennis Allen. Major Allen has served his community and Nation admirably for 55 years, including three years in the military and 52 years as a law enforcement officer.

Born on August 13, 1947, to parents Jo and Bill Allen, Dennis spent his childhood in Silsbee, Texas. Following his graduation from Silsbee High School in 1966, he joined the Army and served a year-long tour of duty in Vietnam from January 1967 to January 1968. In Vietnam, he spent his time as a light weapons member of a 10-man reconnaissance team in the Central Highlands area of North Pleiku.

After being honorably discharged in 1969, he attended Georgetown University and trained at the Metropolitan Police Academy in Washington, D.C. He later served as a patrolman, undercover detective, and member of the Civil Disturbance Unit for the Washington D.C. Metropolitan Police Department (MPD). As an MPD officer, he was one of many called to respond to the mass demonstrations in D.C. on "May Day" in 1969, which resulted in the arrests of more than 6,000 rioters and protesters of the Vietnam War.

In 1973, Dennis returned to his hometown in Texas and began working for the Silsbee Police Department, eventually serving in every position within the agency, including Chief of Police. He later moved on to work for two other law enforcement entities located in

Southeast Texas, including the Polk County Sheriff's Office, where he was the Captain of Detectives for ten years, and the Hardin County Sheriff's Office, where he held the positions of Deputy Sheriff, Sergeant, and Major of Criminal Investigations during his stay. In addition to his law enforcement education, Dennis holds a Master Peace Officer License through the state of Texas and has held that level of certification since 1994.

To say that Dennis has had a remarkable career is a vast understatement as few law enforcement officers reach 50 years of service. The positive impact he has made is evident by the number of officers he has mentored and trained, many of whom have become supervisors and administrators themselves. Their accomplishments are a direct reflection of the leadership and instruction they received from Major Allen.

Yet, life was not only about law enforcement for Dennis, especially after marrying his beautiful bride Sandy in 1973. Dennis and Sandy have two children, Kevin Allen and Stacy Caldwell, and are also the proud grandparents of six grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Madam Speaker, I would like to thank Major Dennis Allen for his more than half a century of unwavering commitment to his community and country. He has done so with incredible integrity and professionalism, and I am honored to represent such a patriot in Congress.

## RECOGNIZING JOE EDMONSON AND FAMILY

**HON. TRENT KELLY**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 27, 2021*

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and celebrate Mr. Joe Edmonson who has been named Mississippi's Farmer of the Year by the Sunbelt Agriculture expo. I am proud to have him representing our state.

Joe has been a motivated and passionate farmer for his entire life. At the age of fifteen, he purchased his first forty acres of land. Both Joe and his wife Melissa grew up in farming families and have dedicated their lives to Topshaw farms. Melissa is a full partner in the farms and is an essential figure in the Vardaman Sweet Potato Festival. Their daughter, Brandi also works in the business side of the farm. Her husband, Shaun manages the packing warehouse line. Son Trent oversees planting and harvesting, and his wife is a nurse who aids in minor medical incidents around the farm. Son Cody manages sweet potato planting and grain harvesting and his wife Lindsey works in the packing warehouse offices and manages H2A work.

The farm has endured multiple natural disasters that affected their crop and livestock. The Edmonson family has taken these hardships as opportunities to expand and built an impressive packing facility. They have taken

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